

Chapter Nine • Historic Preservation

Chapter 9

Historic Preservation



Introduction

The City of Falls Church is rich in history and this heritage is reflected in the buildings and sites of historical and cultural significance that are scattered throughout the city. These buildings reflect the evolution of architecture from the 1700s to the present. The community has a strong commitment to preserving these resources. Respect for Falls Church's eventful history is also evident in the ongoing community life. This chapter includes a description of the City's history and historic resources and how they can be preserved.

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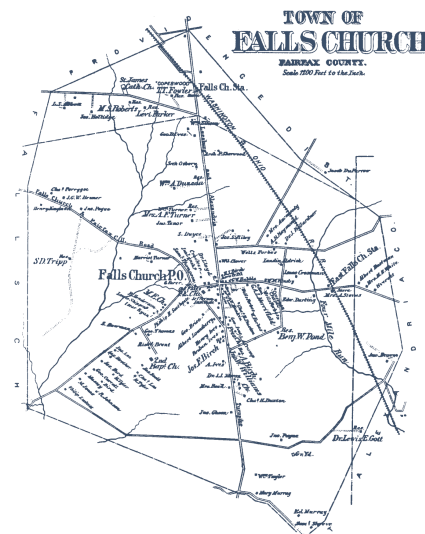
History of the Community

Falls Church is an independent City, situated just six miles from the nation's capital. This proximity has been a major influence on its development, especially over the last century. Although Falls Church is small in area and population, its heritage is long and predates America's colonial era. As far back as 12,000 years ago, the gently rolling landscape of Falls Church was traversed by Native American hunter-gatherers. As they moved inland from the north and east, they traveled on trails that were within the present boundaries of Falls Church. After a series of wars ending in 1677, they left the region and European settlers gradually moved into the area.

The first structure believed to have been built in the Falls Church area in colonial times was a log cabin known as Big Chimneys, which was probably constructed by a squatter in 1699. It, with additions, subsequently served as a home, tavern, and way station for travelers and tradesmen. Farmers acquired most of the land surrounding Big Chimneys between 1724 and 1742. Tobacco was the principal crop and a major barter currency at that time. It was used to pay for the frame Anglican Falls Church built in 1733-34 and for a succeeding brick church built in 1767-69. George Washington and George Mason.

were vestrymen at the church, which together with the county court, constituted the local government.

By 1776 the Falls Church settlement included two churches and two taverns, and about a dozen nearby farms. In 1790 Congress decided to locate the capital of the new nation on the Potomac River. The west corner of the District of Columbia, initially ten miles square, was about one mile north of The Falls Church.



An agricultural depression early in the 19th century slowed growth, and the village remained sparsely settled until after the Alexandria-Leesburg Turnpike was completed in about 1840. Other growth factors were an influx of northern farmers in the 1840s and 1850s and the arrival of the railroad in 1859. The Falls Church area was occupied by the Union Army for over three years during the Civil War, which significantly slowed the growth of the village. Members of northern troops returned to settle in the Falls Church area after the War.

Falls Church's Fort Taylor Park is a landmark of Civil War history and is designated on the Virginia Civil Wars Trails. It represents the location of the first military ascent of Thaddeus Lowe's observation balloon in 1861. The City, along with the Victorian Society at Falls Church, Historical Commission, and other organizations, has actively supported interpretive events at various City locations to promote public interest in Civil War history.

When the War ended in 1865, Falls Church village contained about 40 structures. Before long its recovery was underway as new settlers moved in from the north and freed slaves settled south of The Falls Church. The national temperance movement had many supporters in the village, which came to be described as a temperance stronghold. Soon they were seeking town status from the state legislature as a means to improve the community.

Falls Church was incorporated as a town in 1875 and established a public school the same year. Falls Church grew quickly after its incorporation. Its growth paralleled that of the federal government as many government workers settled here. In 1878 there were over one hundred residences, eleven commercial structures, and eight churches. By 1904 there were one hundred twenty-four residences, fifty-four commercial structures, three post offices, two schools, trolley and train stations at each end of town, two lunch rooms, a hotel, and a meeting hall. The population increased from 792 persons in 1890 to 1,128 persons in 1910, by which time Falls Church was the largest town in Fairfax County.

Electric trolley service to the District of Columbia began in 1897, and offered an increasing number of public services and civic organizations to its residents. During the Spanish-American War (1898) when the army set up Camp Alger nearby, Falls Church was briefly a boomtown. In 1915 the Town Council adopted a residential segregation ordinance, but never implemented it after citizens of African-American descent mounted an effective opposition and formed the first rural chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. in the country.

The growth of the government during World Wars I and II resulted in additional growth in Falls Church with the population increasing from 1,659 persons in 1920 to over 5,000 persons in 1948. By 1939 the electric trolley had

ceased operations and automobiles were the principal means of transportation. During and after World War II, a huge influx of government employees spurred home construction and improvements to the education, transportation, and water supply systems. Falls Church was still the most developed area in Fairfax County and its citizens wanted more control, especially of their schools. Their desire for an improved school system sparked the effort to achieve independent city status.

In 1948 the population of Falls Church exceeded 5,000 persons, enabling it to become an independent city. One year later the City's school system became independent as well. The City established three schools between 1952 and 1955, and voluntarily integrated all of its schools in 1961. The Falls Church schools have consistently won wide recognition for their high quality.

Falls Church takes pride in being a modern city that maintains its small-community atmosphere and preserves its historical heritage. The buildings past and present described in this chapter illustrate that heritage. Though many historic buildings, particularly in the commercial corridors, are now gone, their locations are remembered and their roles in the development of the community are acknowledged.

History of Community Involvement in Historic Preservation

Citizen involvement in efforts to preserve Falls Church are over one hundred years old. Since 1885, the Village Improvement Society has been an effective force in nurturing the atmosphere and character of the community. In those early days, historic research and writing was largely the work of interested individuals. C. A. Stewart's *A Virginia Village detailed turn-of-the-century Falls Church*. It was privately published in 1904 and reprinted in 1985.

The City, incorporated in 1948 and chartered in 1950, is proud of its history and has maintained a long commitment to historic preservation. The Falls Church Historical Society was formed in 1955. That same year the City Council established the Historical Development Commission to "develop and promote the city's historical significance." In 1956 the City acquired the 8.3 acre Riley Estate, a 2.9 acre parcel, which became the future site of City Hall, and another 5.4 acre parcel, which constituted the residual Cherry Hill Farm.

The Falls Church Public Library and Library Board, the Historical Development Commission, and the Historical Society encouraged and assisted Rev. Melvin L. Steadman in the preparation and publication in 1964 of his book, *Falls Church: By Fence and Fireside* (reprinted in 1995). It remains the most complete history of the community and its residents. In 1959 the Commission published a

booklet prepared by Vice Chairman Charles E. Gage entitled *Tobacco, Hogsheads and Rolling Roads in Northern Virginia*, which also provides a history of the community.

In 1965 the City Council established the Falls Church Historical Commission as a permanent advisory body which superseded both the Historical Development Commission and the Historical Society. These early public bodies were actively supported by the newly reinvigorated private organization, now called the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (Village Society). The Society has worked to preserve the history of Falls Church by fostering support for preservation of historical elements within the City and promoting community awareness.

In 1969 the Commission arranged for an architectural inventory of the City's buildings and sites of historical or architectural significance. This survey, conducted by nationally recognized architect and preservation planning consultant, Russell Wright, was published in 1969 (revised in 1975). Wright identified 126 buildings and 24 sites that had particular significance to the community's character. The Falls Church was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. Other sites were subsequently added to one or both of these lists including Cherry Hill at 312 Park Avenue (1973); Southwest 9 Boundary Stone on Van Buren Street, now known as the Benjamin Banneker SW-9 Intermediate Boundary Stone (in 1976, but also declared a National Historic Landmark in 1980); the Birch House at 312 Broad Street (1977); Mount Hope at 203 South Oak Street (1984); and the West Cornerstone on Meridian Street (1991). Another consultant, Tony P. Wrenn, published comprehensive reports entitled *Cherry Hill, Falls Church, Virginia* (1971, revised 1977), and *Falls Church: History of a Virginia Village* (1972). The Commission also recruited volunteer support from the Northern Virginia chapter of the American Archeological Society that conducted research around Cherry Hill Farm and the Birch House. The Commission was also a principal participant in the Town's Centennial activities in 1975. Henry H. Douglas, a member of the Historical Commission, recorded all of these structures and spent several years compiling a 138-page book entitled *Falls Church: Places and People* that was published by the Commission in 1981 and revised in 1988. The Douglas volume highlighted the fact that 19 of the 126 structures in the 1969 Architectural Inventory had been demolished.

The 1975 vandalizing of the Birch House triggered the formation of Historic Falls Church, Inc., a private, non-profit corporation authorized by state charter to buy and preserve historic or culturally significant structures, and to accept historic preservation easements. With a revolving fund raised through the sale of memberships, and through tax exempt

donations, this organization bought the Birch House and resold it to a developer who restored it under the terms of an easement. Historic Falls Church, Inc., has since acquired and restored two other houses (258 North Washington Street and 200 East Broad Street, which is now located at 303 East Broad Street) and has taken historic preservation easements on many other properties. After a period of inactivity in the 1980s, the organization resumed operations in the early 1990s to preserve the Porter-Proctor House.

In February 1976 a City Council resolution recognized that "...The City of Falls Church has a background rich in historical significance tracing back to the colonial days of this country; and the physical remembrances, the written records, and the memories of the City's past are a valued and irreplaceable part of our heritage, which should be preserved and protected by all means..." The resolution went on to redefine and reaffirm the duties of the Historical Commission, assigning the "task of identifying, collecting, preserving and displaying evidence and records of the city's historic past." It also directed the Commission to "develop criteria for the identification of historic buildings and sites and recommend to the appropriate officials... such action as the commission may deem appropriate to provide for their recognition and preservation." The Historical Commission also proposes various programs and projects related to the City's history.

In 1976 the Historical Commission participated in national bicentennial activities and completed the renovation and partial furnishing of the Cherry Hill barn and house. Subsequently, the Commission assisted the Friends of Cherry Hill in furnishing and managing the property. During the late 1970s, the Commission completed the centralization of its historical collection in the Virginia Room of the public library. The collection subsequently has been collated, catalogued, and indexed by professional staff librarians. It includes hundreds of photographs, maps, transcripts of oral histories, slides, tapes, clippings, books, and folders of textual material.

The City adopted a Master Plan in 1978, which stated that as a matter of policy, the City should "Retain and protect whenever possible the architectural and historic legacy of the City, recognizing the aesthetic impact and economic value of this legacy on the City's development."

In 1981 the Historical Commission reported to the City Council that all counties, cities, and towns in Northern Virginia, except Falls Church, used historic district zoning to implement preservation programs. As a result of this apparent lack of preservation related programs, the City Council and Historical Commission held a number of worksessions, which led to the formation of an Ad Hoc Study Committee on Historic Preservation. During 1982 and 1983, this ad hoc committee held worksessions, pub-

lic hearings, and consulted with preservation experts. On May 29, 1984 the Historic and Cultural Conservation District (HCCD) Ordinance (Ordinance 1072) was enacted to preserve structures from arbitrary demolition.

One directive of the HCCD Ordinance was the formation of an Architectural Review Board (ARB), comprised of representatives of the Historical Commission, Planning Commission, and Architectural Advisory Board. This Board was assigned to review requests for the demolition of historic structures. The HCCD Ordinance also assigned responsibility to the Falls Church Historical Commission (FCHC) for certifying all pre-1911 structures and sites and post-1910 structures and sites that have special merit or historical significance for the city. The City has the responsibility for maintaining the inventory. All certifications are filed in the City's Official Register in City Hall and at the library. Bronze plaques are available for exterior display on certified buildings. To date, FCHC has certified 92 pre-1911 residential buildings, five pre-1911 churches, two 1791 boundary stones, and three post-1910 structures for a total of 102 sites.

In February 1992 the ordinance was revised to include new provisions to protect structures from demolition by neglect, and to advise the owners of historic properties of restrictions on exterior alterations and additions. At this time the ARB was reconfigured with five members appointed directly to it, instead of from other Boards.

In 1985 Dr. James and Betty Henderson wrote *Molder of Men*, which was the first book to chronicle some of the civil rights efforts in Falls Church and the founding of the first rural chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. here in 1915 by Edwin B. Henderson and Joseph Tinner. In 1992, when commercial pad development threatened to demolish the home of Dr. Edwin Bancroft Henderson, founder of that chapter and the preeminent civil rights leader for over 50 years in this area, a new community effort was made to acknowledge and commemorate civil rights activities. The Henderson House was granted historic designation by the City and an annual Tinner's Hill Street Festival was initiated in 1994. This was the first annual festival in Falls Church to commemorate a local historical event. In 2000 the City of Falls Church and the County of Fairfax jointly purchased property on Tinner Hill Road, once owned by Joseph Tinner, to construct a museum commemorating the establishment of the NAACP. Additional grant funds were secured by the Tinner Hill Foundation in 2003 to create the Piedmont Blues Museum on the same property.

In July 1993 the City Council created a Tricentennial Committee to promote public understanding and celebration of the community history culminating with the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Falls Church in 1999. In 1995 the publication subcommittee of the Tricentennial Committee completed the editing and

printing of An Historical Guide and Map that was initiated and drafted in 1991 by the Historical Commission. Descriptions of resources that are included in this guide can be found in the [Figure 9-2](#) and the [Appendix](#) to this chapter.

In 1994 the ARB was renamed the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB). In addition to its role to review demolition requests and cases of demolition by neglect, the HARB was also given the authority to advise the owners of historic properties on exterior alterations and additions. The HARB continues to play an important role in maintaining the historic architectural character of structures within the City. Since the Board's inception it has denied three applications for historic structure demolition and granted three demolition applications, with a fourth application granted by the Court.

In 1995 the Victorian Society at Falls Church was founded to help highlight the Victorian past of the City. This group has been involved in a variety of events since its inception, with a particular focus on historical re-enactment and living history interpretation.

In 1996 the City successfully completed, through a cost-sharing agreement with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, an architectural survey and assessment of its resources. Traceries, an historical architectural consulting firm, under contract with the State and with active City involvement, inventoried 231 historic properties which were built before or during 1930, 23 post-1930 structures, and 29 structures that have been demolished. The contractor also conducted a windshield survey and made recommendations regarding historic district potential for areas developed between 1930 and 1950. Traceries prepared an historic context statement to help understand the evolution of the City's architectural resources and a final report titled *Architectural Survey and Assessment of the City of Falls Church*, September 15, 1996. This report will serve as a basis for public discussions on future historic preservation priorities and planning efforts.

The Traceries report recommends the following actions:

- a review of Fairfax County's tax books for nine properties;
- additions to formal oral histories;
- designation of historic districts;
- primary research of the City's 1930-1950 subdivisions;
- determination of potential archaeological sites; and research on the local historical significance of Sisler's Quarry, located just outside the City limits.

The report also recommends the following changes in the list of properties certified under the existing HCCD Ordinance:

- add seven pre-1910 residences and seven special merit properties; and
- decertify six and recertify one pre-1910 property.

Changes recommended for the HCCD Ordinance by Traceries are:

- to amend to protect all properties with contributing primary resources dating to 50 years or more;
- amend to protect properties and resources, in addition to "structures," as defined by state and national guidelines;
- clarify the identification and protection of historic districts; and
- incorporate design guidelines for designated historic districts.

The report also recommends that the City actively seek Certified Local Government status.

Following the completion of the Traceries and Goodwin report, several groups in the City, including the HARB, Historical Commission, members of the community, City leaders, and later the Cultural Resources Task Force (2003-2004) continued to have discussions about the implementation of recommendations within the Traceries Report. The HARB has requested that the City grant it definitive authority over alterations to historic structures rather than just advisory input. The groups have also continually debated over whether there should be means to enhance and expand protection to identified historic resources under the HCCD ordinance by changing the construction date that enables them to be certified (the current code applies to all residential structures constructed prior to or in 1910); creating some type of rolling date; or by identifying and designating specific historic districts. In addition, the City achieving Certified Local Government Status and the ability to create historic districts has also been debated within the community. These issues are on-going and will continue to be discussed.

In early 1997 the Falls Church City Council adopted a proposal by the Historical Commission to create an historic trail through the City. Subsequently, the City published a "Guide and Map" for the Historic Falls Church Trail that maps and describes 28 locations in a brochure. Most of these locations are also noted by aluminum markers. In that same year, Gateway Press published City resident Shirley Camp's *Past Times Around Falls Church: The Change from Plantation to Village and Town 1729-1875*.

In 1999 the City successfully completed, again through a cost-sharing agreement with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), "Archaeological Resources in the City." Goodwin, a consulting company under contract by the City, inventoried eleven VDHR-registered sites and recommended further study, laboratory curation of all potential sites, and strengthening of the zoning ordinance to protect such sites.

In the past decade the City has observed and commemorated significant dates in history, beginning with the 120th anniversary of the original town charter in 1995, the 50th anniversary of independent city status in 1998, and the tricentennial of the area's settlement in 1999.

Bradley E. Gernand's and Nan Netherton's *Falls Church, A Virginia Village Revisited*, was published in 2000. Another book authored by Bradley Gernand's on the Civil War is titled, *A Virginia Village Goes to War: Falls Church During the Civil War* was published in 2002. These are both good resources of Falls Church historical information.

In 2002 the City also adopted an ordinance to allow bed and breakfast type uses within historic homes in residential areas by conditional use permit. These uses can be allowed only on principal and minor arterial roadways. To date, no proposals for bed and breakfasts have been received by the City.

During the past few years the doctor's office from the Green Gables property was moved in an effort to preserve it for possible future use; however, no permanent location has yet been determined for this building. In addition, an interpreted footprint of the Big Chimneys site was constructed in 2003 in Big Chimney's Park as an educational resource.

Significant and Certified Historic Properties

Falls Church has undertaken significant past preservation efforts which included the preparation of an architectural inventory in 1969 and a revision in 1975. Of the 126 buildings listed in the 1969 Architectural Inventory, 86 are on the Official Historic Register, 22 have been demolished, and 18 are post-1910 in age and subject for consideration as special merit properties along with other historically or architecturally significant structures and sites. It is interesting to note that about one-half of all pre-1911 structures still exist in Falls Church and the HCCD Ordinance has been instrumental in their continued preservation.

Many of the City's historic structures within the commercial and civic core have been lost over time including Big Chimneys (1699-ca.1908), Fairfax Chapel (1779-1862), Wren's Tavern (1789-1847), Leesburg Pike Tollgate (1840-1870), Star Tavern (1850s-1890s), the original Columbia Baptist Church (1857-1910), the original railroad station (1859-1939), Taylor's Tavern and Battery (1860s), the original Saint James Catholic Church (1873-1902), the original Crossman United Methodist Church (1875-1963), the first Town Hall (circa 1880-1953), the Jefferson Institute (1882-1958), the Trolley Station (1897-1939), and the Virginia Training School (1899-1947). However, many structures within the non-commercial sectors of the City have been preserved and restored. **Figure 9-1** or the Interactive map displays the location of the City's Certified Historic properties and sites as well as all structures constructed prior

to 1910, that are eligible for certification. **Figure 9-2** and the [appendix](#) to this chapter describe in more detail some of those significant structures that have withstood the test of time and growth pressure and continue to contribute to the City.



State Enabling Legislation and Local Regulations

The Code of Virginia provides local governments with a number of tools to facilitate the preservation of historic sites and structures by enabling local governments to adopt ordinances and districts. Section 15.1-446.1 permits the designation of historical areas as an element that may be included in

the comprehensive plan; Section 15.1-447 requires that historic areas be surveyed and studied in the preparation of the comprehensive plan; Section 15.1-489 identifies protection against destruction of or encroachment upon historic areas as an element to which reasonable consideration shall be given in a zoning ordinance; and Section 15.1-503.2 sets forth the criteria and process by which localities may preserve historical sites and areas in counties and municipalities, including the designation of parcels of land contiguous to arterial streets or highways found to be significant routes of tourist access.

As stated above, the Falls Church City Council amended the Zoning Ordinance in 1984 and again in 1992 to designate the City as a Historic and Cultural Conservation District. The purpose of this Ordinance is to preserve and protect the City's historical, architectural, and cultural heritage by establishing special protection from demolition or moving structures, advising owners on exterior renovations or additions, or sites that are found to be significant for their architecture or their associations with the community's history or culture.

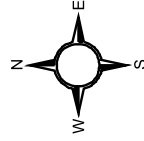
By the terms of the Ordinance, a residence qualifies for special protection if it was built in or before 1910. The City Council may grant protected status to nonresidential structures and historic sites of any age, and residences of special merit built after 1910. Before a structure or site can be certified for special protection, the Historical Commission must provide evidence of its age from tax and deed records, wills, photos, and maps. The certification is forwarded to the Planning Division. After a 30 day delay period to permit possible objections by the property owner, the structure will be added to the Official Register of Protected Structures and Sites.

The Historic and Cultural Conservation District (HCCD) Ordinance covers the entire City, but applies only to certain properties. It is an example of "overlay zoning," which does not change the underlying zoning designations, but rather adds a set of special restrictions to preserve and protect the City's architecture, cultural, and historic heritage. Within this District protection from demolition is given to all structures built as residences during or before 1910, and other structures and sites of special merit regardless of when they were built. The protected buildings are thus a mixture of some that are outstanding in architectural significance, and some that are of "value as part of the scene" and contribute to maintaining its integrity. The City has designed and procured bronze plaques for exterior display on certified buildings.

Permits for demolition of protected structures may be approved by the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) under criteria established by the Ordinance, and denials may be appealed successively to the City Council and Circuit Court. Notwithstanding such denial of a permit, the owner may demolish a protected structure after making a bona-fide attempt to sell it to anyone willing to preserve it (time periods for such offers differ by value of property).

Figure 9-1

Certified Historic Structures and Protected Properties



City of Falls Church

LEGEND

0 Plaque Number

 Historic Building



See Figure 9-2 for list of structures

2005 City of Falls Church Comprehensive Plan

File Name: Comprehensive Plan Maps 2005

File Location: h:\gis pc proj\

Date Created: March, 2006

Data Sources: City Base Data Layers

Disclaimer: The City of Falls Church is not responsible for loss, if any, resulting from the use of this map or the related data.

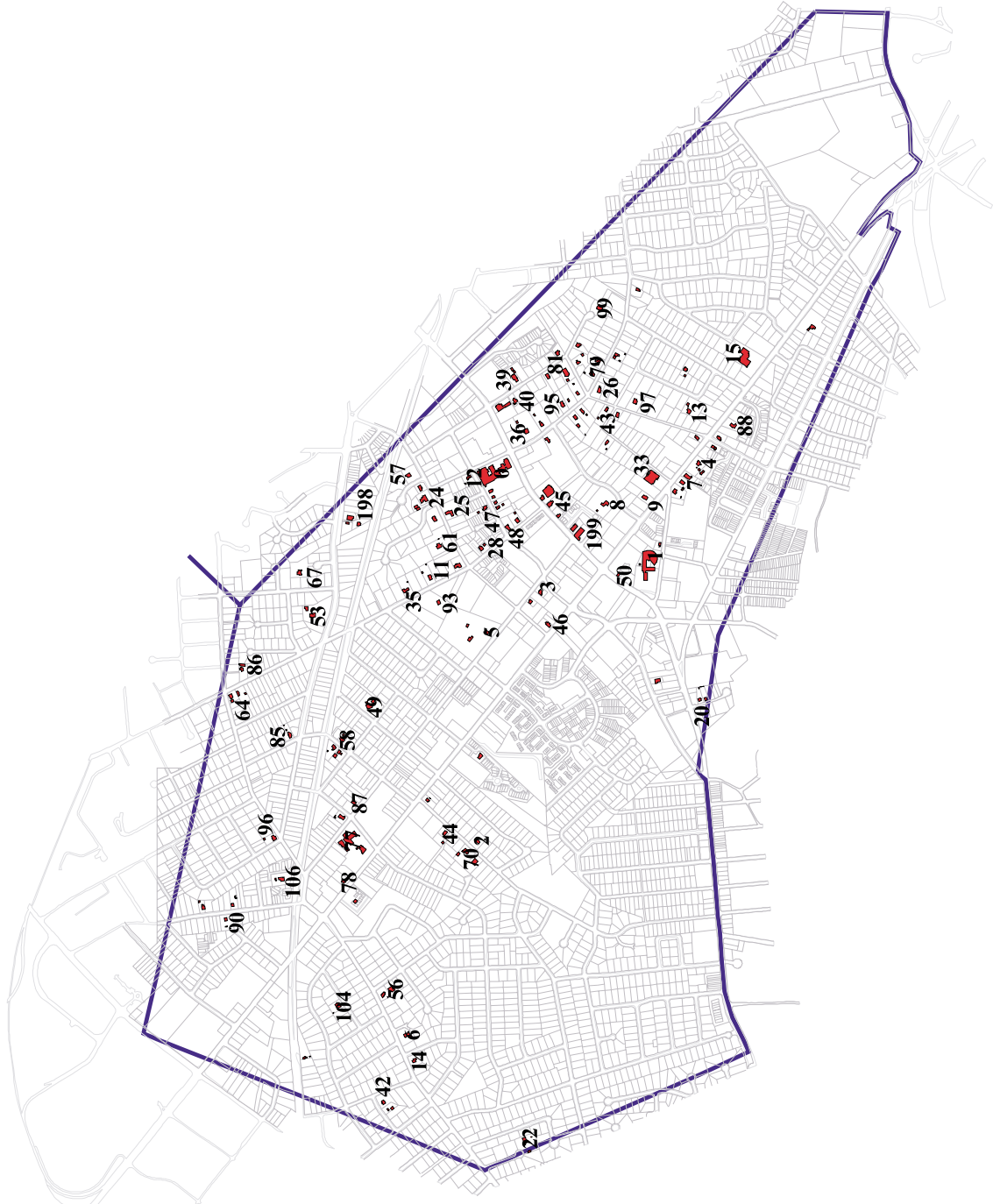


Figure 9-2 • Official Register of Certified Structures and Sites

Plaque Number	Circa (c) Prior to	Date of Construction	Address	Certification Date	RPC Number
1		1769	115 East Fairfax Street	28-Mar-88	53107058
2	c	1790	203 South Oak Street	20-Nov-84	52301008
3		1797	205 Park Avenue	20-Nov-84	51106010
4	c	1835	312 East Broad Street	30-May-84	53115032
5		1845	312 Park Avenue	15-Jan-85	51112002
6	c	1840	903 Lanier Place	19-Mar-85	52608043
7		1854	302 East Broad Street	21-May-86	53115012
8	c	1855	203 Lawton Street	30-May-84	53104033
9		1855	209 East Broad Street	30-May-84	53116041
10	c	1859	509 West Broad Street	30-May-84	52302054
11	After	1862	400 Great Falls Street	19-Mar-85	51110040
12	After	1862	329 North Maple Avenue	19-Mar-85	51108018
13	After	1862	209 Midvale Street	30-May-84	53118037
14		1867	409 South West Street	19-Mar-85	52607010
15		1869	513 East Broad Street	14-Dec-92	53204006
16		1870	708 East Broad Street	21-May-86	53203026
17	c	1870	306 North Washington Street	19-Mar-85	53103013
18	c	1870	300 East Broad Street	20-Nov-84	53115011
19	c	1870	325 Little Falls Street	21-May-86	51110032
20	c	1870	107 Tinner's Hill	15-Jul-86	53110002
21		1871	345 Little Falls Street	20-Nov-84	51110052
22		1873	600 Abbott Lane	04-Jun-86	52604002
23		1874	258 North Washington Street	30-May-84	53104039
24	Prior to	1878	335 Little Falls Street	19-Mar-85	51110050
25	c	1878	324 Little Falls Street	16-Jul-85	51108012
26	c	1878	306 North Cherry Street	19-Feb-85	53118019
28	c	1878	210 Great Falls Street	18-Nov-84	51108060
29		1879	222 North Washington Street	28-Mar-88	53104024
30	c	1880	110 Great Falls Street	19-Mar-85	51103004
31	c	1880	413 East Columbia Street	19-Feb-85	53101015
32		1883	320 Grove Avenue	20-Nov-84	51215022
33		1884	225 East Broad Street	14-Dec-92	53116001
34		1885	114 East Columbia Street	06-Aug-84	53103017
35		1885	414 Great Falls Street	20-Nov-84	51110005
36		1888	109 East Columbia Street	06-Aug-84	53102007
37		1888	208 East Columbia Street	06-Aug-84	53116024
38		1889	206 East Jefferson Street	02-Aug-84	53102032
39	c	1890	115 East Jefferson Street	02-Aug-84	53101039
40	c	1890	108 East Jefferson Street	15-Jan-85	53102020
41		1890	322 East Broad Street	21-May-86	53115033
42		1890	1011 Fowler Street	19-Mar-85	52109007
43	c	1890	301 North Cherry Street	19-Feb-85	53116028
44	c	1890	116 South Oak Street	19-Mar-85	52206047
45	c	1890	282 North Washington Street	28-Mar-88	53104028
46		1890	260 West Broad Street	28-Mar-88	51106004
47	c	1890	319 North Maple Avenue	28-Mar-88	51108039
48	c	1890	116 Great Falls Street	28-Mar-88	51103005
49		1890	610 Fulton Avenue	28-Jan-86	51125008
50	c	1892	121 South Washington Street	Not Certified	53107007
51	c	1890	117 East Columbia Street	06-Aug-84	53102005

Figure 9-2 • Official Register of Certified Structures and Sites (continued)

Plaque Number	Circa (c) Prior to	Date of Construction	Address	Certification Date	RPC Number
52	c	1891	900 Park Avenue	10-Jan-85	51203001
53		1893	508 Lincoln Avenue	28-Jan-86	51120002
54		1893	300 Great Falls Street	30-May-85	51110037
55		1893	303 East Broad Street	01-Apr-87	53107017
56		1894	905 Parker Avenue	17-May-88	52608017
57		1894	407 Little Falls Street	28-Jan-86	51110073
58		1894	306 North Oak Street	20-Nov-84	51125025
59		1894	211 East Columbia Street	20-Nov-84	53102002
60		1895	303 North Oak Street	20-Feb-90	51205006
61		1895	313 Little Falls Street	28-Jan-86	51110034
62		1895	211 Park Avenue	21-May-86	51106008
63		1895	333 Little Falls Street	17-May-88	51110051
64		1899	543 Great Falls Street	19-Dec-89	51122024
65		1896	215 East Jefferson Street	02-Aug-84	53101081
66		1898	219 East Columbia Street	20-Nov-84	53102001
67	c	1898	502 Walden Court	15-Jan-84	51119007
68		1898	304 East Broad Street	21-May-86	53115059
69	c	1895	305 North Oak Street	17-May-88	51205004
70	c	1900	200 South Oak Street	10-Jan-85	52206050
74		1901	214 East Columbia Street	06-Aug-84	53116025
76		1902	905 Park Avenue	19-Mar-85	51202018
77		1902	905 Park Avenue	19-Mar-85	51202018
78		1903	920 West Broad Street	07-Jun-88	51202004
79	c	1903	407 East Columbia Street	16-Jul-85	53101016
80		1903	412 North Cherry Street	18-Aug-87	53101019
81	c	1904	212 East Jefferson Street	02-Aug-84	53102019
82		1904	400 East Broad Street	21-May-86	53120024
83	c	1904	316 North Maple Avenue	19-Mar-85	51103024
84		1904	301 South West Street	19-Mar-85	52608016
85	Prior to	1905	502 North Oak Street	19-Dec-89	51123005
86		1905	532 Great Falls Street	25-May-88	51121007
87		1905	816 Park Avenue	18-Aug-87	51204005
88	Prior to	1906	408 East Broad Street	18-Dec-89	53120079
89		1907	308 Grove Avenue	07-Jun-88	51215016
90		1907	311 Grove Avenue	18-Aug-87	51216047
93		1909	401 Great Falls Street	28-Jan-89	51112014
95		1909	207 East Columbia Street	16-Jul-85	53102003
96	c	1909	301 North West Street	07-Jun-88	51212024
97	c	1910	218 North Cherry Street	18-Aug-87	53118015
98	c	1910	206 South Oak Street	18-Aug-87	52206051
99	c	1910	422 East Jefferson Street	19-Dec-89	53101025
100	c	1910	310 North Maple Avenue	17-May-88	51103007
101	c	1910	312 North Maple Avenue	17-May-88	51103008
102	c	1910	539 Great Falls Street	19-Dec-89	51122025
104	c	1910	208 Patterson Street	20-Feb-90	52112015
105	c	1910	223 North Cherry Street	19-Dec-89	53117031
106	c	1910	201 North West Street	18-Aug-87	51215066
107	c	1918	307 South Maple Street	Unknown	Special Merit
198		1916	313 Lincoln Avenue	08-Jun-92	51116013
199		1935	220 North Washington Street	28-Mar-88	53104022

Future Trends and Projections

Falls Church is at a critical juncture regarding development priorities, future planning, and protection and enhancement of its historic resources. Commercial and residential developments have been and will continue to take place in the future, including commercial redevelopment, new residential subdivisions and infill development, additions to existing residential structures, and the tearing down and rebuilding of new homes. These activities engender new debate over future development in and around the City and the effects of such development pressures on its historic heritage and resources.

A prime example of the impact of new development was the potential destruction of the Porter-Proctor House located at 200 East Broad Street. The lot on which this structure was located was developed as a new town-house subdivision. This structure has been relocated to a lot adjoining Don Frady Park at 303 East Broad Street and restored in part by Historic Falls Church, Inc.

In 2002 Planning Division staff began a comprehensive review of the City’s Zoning Ordinance, including the Historic and Cultural Conservation Ordinance. The Historic Architectural Review Board and the Historical Commission began discussing amendments needed to the Ordinance in 2003. Amendments to this ordinance have not yet been adopted.

The following goals, strategies, actions, and vision will be implemented during the life of this Plan in order to achieve the City’s vision for Historic Preservation. The City’s Historic Preservation goals and strategies are to be achieved largely by maintaining a detailed database of all of the City’s resources, refining the existing Historic and Cultural Conversation (HCCD) Ordinance, and developing other incentive programs for owners of historic properties. The goals and strategies within the matrix below describe many methods for implementing the suggested changes. The "Required Action" and "Responsible Party(ies)," columns of the matrix provide additional guidance to the City in areas which will require additional actions or resources to achieve the historic preservation goals and strategies.

VISION: The City’s historical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural heritage will be protected and recognized as a valuable asset. The City will preserve these resources and the aesthetic and economic values associated with them, by ensuring that such resources are given maximum planning consideration. Development will be planned and executed in a manner which is compatible with these resources and their associated values

GOAL 1. Identify and document historic resources within the City.			
Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
A. Maintain the inventory of all historic architectural resources within the City and certify all structures and sites which meet the criteria established within the Historic Cultural and Conservation (HCCD) Ordinance.	The current HCCD Ordinance states that all pre-1911 structures are eligible for historic certification and other special merit. The 1996 Traceries Report describes 240 properties that were almost all constructed prior to 1931 as contributing historic resources that should be considered for certification.	Reevaluate structures as recommended by the Architectural Survey and Assessment of the City of Falls Church, VA (1996). Update databases as structures are certified or demolished on an annual basis. Add information to the City’s website.	Planning Division and Historical Commission
B. Support nominations for the State or National Register for recognition of qualified single properties identified in the inventory and in future individual intensive surveys.	Until now, the City has not had a complete set of detailed data regarding specific historic resources, and therefore has not made an effort to register them through the appropriate state and federal agencies. Data collected in the 1996 Traceries Report’s inventory of all historic architectural resources indicate that certain properties probably qualify for state and national registers.	Work with property owners to aid them in completing nomination forms.	Planning Division, Historical Commission, and Property Owners

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
C. Collect and archive information on the complete range of historic resources and create space within a facility to house them.	Historic resources are defined as historical records, including but not limited to print, microform, and electronic documents, reports, government publications, newspapers and newsletters, archival collections, books, photographs, slides, and digital images, audio media, maps, and artifacts. The Mary Riley Styles Public Library maintains a variety of local history information in the Local History Collection, which is housed in the Virginia Room. It also actively pursues and collects resources for this collection.	Identify other disciplinary areas that might be added to the collections and archived. Find space for a larger collection to be maintained. Hire appropriate professionals to maintain the collections. Consider these changes in the budget process.	Historical Commission, Planning Division, and Library
D. Conduct an assessment of known or potential archaeological sites and features within the City, and integrate this information into the historic inventory.	The Goodwin consulting firm recommended further study of 11 VDHR registered sites and 6 others and the strengthening of the zoning code.	Conduct studies of known or potential sites. Seek outside grants and assistance. Add this information to the database of historic resources. Also consider the establishment of a laboratory to curate all collections.	Planning Division and Historical Commission
E. Consider amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to require that archaeological resources be considered during future development of sensitive properties.	Sensitive resources can be demolished during construction. Allowing for some level of excavation of sites prior to development could contribute to the City's resources.	Identify possible sensitive areas on a map. Develop Zoning regulation requiring some period of time prior to construction to perform an assessment.	Planning Division and Historic Commission
F. Implement the following recommendations of the Architectural Survey and Assessment of the City of Falls Church, VA (1996). (see action items)	See the full report for further details.	Review 9 properties in the Fairfax County tax books. Add to formal oral histories. Research the City's 1930-1950 subdivisions. Perform research on Sisler's Quarry. Consider adding identified pre-1910 residential properties to the list of certified properties.	Planning Division and Historic Commission
G. Create a comprehensive resource guide to all of the City's historic and cultural resources.	There are a variety of documents with information on historic resources. The Architectural Survey and Assessment of the City of Falls Church, VA (1996) is lengthy and other documents with historic information exist. A resource guide should contain a summary of this report, a list and description of resources, and photographs.	Link these text descriptions and photos to the City's historic resource GIS layer. Prepare a summary of the 1996 report and other historic reference documents. Include in this summary a comprehensive list of every historic structure, landscape, object, memorial, and historical event with photographs and written descriptions.	Planning Division, Historic Commission, and possibly outside consultant

GOAL 2. Preserve and enhance historic resources within the residential districts of the City, and recognize the aesthetic and economic value of preserving these resources.

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
A. Encourage architecturally appropriate renovations and restorations of the City's historic resources and minimize the demolition of any historic structures that are salvageable.	The integrity of historic structures should be preserved during renovations or redevelopment projects. In situations where it is not possible to develop a site with the historic structure, a suitable site to relocate the structure should be sought. The HARB will continue to review applications to alter, move, or raze protected properties. The City's Design Guidelines contain suggestions for alterations to historic structures and for new infill housing adjacent to historic resources.	Develop an educational program that highlights the importance of each historic resource and the importance of historic preservation in general. This could be as a general public campaign as well as a specific one targeted at the owners of historic properties. The HARB's role as advisor to property owners should also be included in this effort. Search for grant opportunities to fund such a program.	HARB and Planning Division

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
B. Create additional incentives for owners of historic properties to maintain or improve the condition of their structures and be flexible in building code requirements for historic structures.	Historic properties often require major investments to maintain or regain their structural and visual integrity. State incentives, such as tax credits, could encourage the necessary maintenance and rehabilitation of these properties. Modern building code requirements, if strictly applied to many historic properties, would require significant alterations that are costly, and in some cases, may disrupt the historic architectural integrity of the structure. For this reason, it is recommended that City officials work with the property owners and the HARB when necessary to develop a plan for code application that will create structural safety, while maintaining architectural integrity and not unduly burdening the property owners.	<p>Prepare informational packages for owners of historic properties concerning the tax advantages of owning an historic property and the Virginia Historic Rehabilitation Credit.</p> <p>Provide owners of historic properties with copies of the Design Guidelines for historic properties.</p> <p>Develop a mechanism for a case-by-case review of issues that may impact negatively the integrity of an historic structure during a renovation and/or alteration.</p> <p>Pursue adoption of State enabling legislation to permit local tax incentives for preservation and rehabilitation of historic structures.</p>	Planning Division
C. Promote the preservation of historic properties in residential districts with consideration of their economic value to the City.	Well preserved historic properties in residential neighborhoods can contribute to increased property values, as well as provide a catalyst for the revitalization of nearby properties. Historic home tours within the City can also serve as a tourist attraction thereby bringing tourism dollars into the City. The City's ordinance that allows Bed and Breakfasts in residentially zoned structures along major roads could also be used to attract tourists.	<p>Create an historic home tour program.</p> <p>Develop literature to market the historic features of the City and the bed and breakfast use provision.</p> <p>Encourage non-profit groups to renovate large historic structures that might not feasibly be restored by individual citizens.</p>	Chamber of Commerce and Office of City Manager
D. Continue to support the activities of the City's Historical Commission and the Historic Architectural Review Board.	The work of the Historical Commission and HARB is crucial to the preservation of historic resources within the City. The Historical Commission will continue to support efforts to maintain the preservation of the City's historic and cultural heritage, support to the Friends of Cherry Hill, the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, and churches. The HARB provides invaluable advisory services to owners of historic properties on alterations and maintenance. It also works with the owners of historic properties to prevent outright demolition and demolition by neglect whenever possible.	<p>Establish a designated staff member to coordinate cultural resource activities, including providing staff support to both the HARB and the Historical Commission.</p> <p>This staff should prepare and implement a comprehensive City Historic Preservation Plan.</p> <p>Consider this staffing change during the budget process.</p>	City Council and Planning Division
E. Discourage the demolition of historic resources.	The City currently requires approval from the HARB for the demolition of all structures covered by the HCCD Ordinance; however this can be appealed to the City Council or Circuit Court.	Support non-profit groups such as Historic Falls Church in their efforts to purchase and relocate historic structures that would otherwise be demolished.	Planning Division and HARB

GOAL 3. Preserve and enhance historic resources located in commercial zoning districts.

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
A. Encourage the retention or adaptive reuse of historic residential structures in commercial, transitional and industrial districts, and if that fails, support efforts to relocate those structures.	<p>The residential and religious structures currently located in commercial districts must be protected in place or by relocation. Historic resources located in nonresidential areas are especially at risk for inappropriate alterations and demolitions. Many of these structures were originally used as residences, and as such may not be well-suited for commercial or industrial use and the high value of commercially zoned land makes it more attractive for redevelopment. Careful consideration should be given to the application of the Design Guidelines for the City Center project, particularly in relation to the three (205 Park Avenue, 211 Park Avenue, and 260 West Broad Street) certified structures within that area.</p> <p>If a structure cannot be converted, every effort should be made to relocate it at the developer's expense.</p>	<p>Offer a reduced tax assessment to remove some of the incentive to demolish structures and allow owners to rehabilitate them.</p> <p>Educate property owners about the Virginia Historic Preservation Tax Credit program and Federal Investment Tax Credits that are also available for the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. A new change in legislation no longer requires structure to be income producing to receive such funds.</p> <p>The Historical Commission should evaluate all commercial structures for potential special merit certification and protection.</p> <p>Religious and agrarian structures located in commercial districts should also be considered for special merit designation.</p>	Planning Division, City Attorney, Historical Commission, HARB

GOAL 4. Maintain, enhance, and expand where appropriate, the City's publicly owned historic resources.

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
A. Regularly maintain and periodically monitor the condition of City-owned structures and properties.	There is currently no formal system for the review of City-owned historic resources. Stronger City advocacy is needed for protection and appropriate maintenance of city-owned historic properties. Responsibility for such maintenance must be clarified among City departments.	<p>An annual tour of each structure by qualified inspectors could uncover any necessary maintenance and repairs, which could potentially prevent the need for major repairs in the future.</p> <p>Create a category in the City's annual Capital Improvements Program and budget for the maintenance and repair of City-owned historic resources.</p>	Planning Division, Department of Environmental Services, and Financial Services Division
B. Consider opportunities to acquire historical resources within the City, where appropriate.	The City should acquire historic properties only as a last resort. In these situations, the Historical Commission should make the City Council aware of these opportunities with recommendations for the potential use and maintenance of the resource. Future budget considerations will play a major role in making decisions about these type of purchases.	<p>Inform the City Council of opportunities on an annual basis.</p> <p>Earmark money within the CIP for purchase of historic properties.</p> <p>Establish a fund for the purchase or restoration of historic properties and accept development proffers and private contributions for it.</p>	Historical Commission, Planning Division, City Manager, and Financial Services Division
C. Consider the development of a visitor's center and/or museum.	The Historical Commission has identified potential sites for preservation and/or reconstruction that could be used as a visitor's center or museum.	<p>Evaluate each potential project on its merits in meeting community objectives to enhance tourism and economic development, and on the ability of each to receive funding through City or grant monies.</p> <p>Consult with museum professionals to determine what criteria is used to justify the establishment of a museum or visitor center.</p>	Planning Division, Planning Commission, and City Council
D. Make Fort Taylor (Taylor Hill) Park attractive as an historic and natural resource.	This is the site of Fort Taylor, a Civil War military installation, which is located at the intersection of Roosevelt and East Broad Streets.	Consider other displays at the site.	Recreation and Parks Division and Historical Commission

GOAL 5. Revise the Historic and Cultural Conservation District (HCCD) Ordinance to enhance the preservation of all historic resources.

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
A. Strengthen protection measures for historic resources.	The City has legal authority with respect to historic structures only in cases where owners request a demolition or to move such structures. Stronger protection for the land, its outbuildings, and other physical features are all important elements of the protected structure's historical setting. The integrity of protected structures can be challenged by the subdivision of the properties on which the structures stand or by the demolition of associated outbuildings or other physical features.	<p>Consider changing the certification criteria such that structures built some period of time after 1910 can be considered.</p> <p>Review historic properties and historic resources in accordance with the state and national register criteria.</p> <p>Include outbuildings and other physical features, such as fences, belonging to historic properties as historic resources. Ancillary structures are included in the Ordinance, but not defined in the definitions of the Zoning Ordinance.</p> <p>Consider amending the Zoning Ordinance to provide HARB review of any proposed construction to be undertaken on any property adjacent to an existing historic property, including on new subdivisions or pipestem lots.</p>	Planning Division, HARB, and Historical Commission

GOAL 6. Interpret and publicize the City's historic resources to educate the community and to create the basis and climate for historic preservation.

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
A. Establish a public education program to inform the general Falls Church community about the City's historic assets and potential benefits of the preservation of historic resources.	The City's historic resources and their value are not evident to the general public. The public library's Local History Collection, as well as the Historical Commission's annual symposia and subsequent publications are the foundation for a public education program. The Tricentennial Celebration provided a forum to publicize these resources and inspired new publications as well as the 150th anniversary of Cherry Hill Farmhouse, and the Tinner's Hill Street Festival. Other local historical events/celebrations that could serve as a basis for public education if presented annually, could include a Native American festival, a Victorian festival, and a Spanish American living history demonstration.	<p>Create storefront displays for public education.</p> <p>Provide a bibliography of the works cited in this Chapter and make it available at City Hall and at the Mary Riley Styles Public Library.</p> <p>Continue the preparation of less formal historical documents, particularly summaries of various time periods in Falls Church history.</p> <p>Complete the Historic Falls Church Trail.</p>	Historical Commission

APPENDIX: DESCRIPTIONS OF PROMINENT HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Falls Church (1769): The first church (1733) on this site at the intersection of Fairfax and South Washington Streets was a member church of the official Church of England. First known as the New Church in Truro Parish, it became the Upper Church in 1745. The name The Falls Church first appeared in vestry minutes in 1757. The two-story, hip-roof, Georgian-style church was designed and built by James Wren between 1767 and 1769 from local bricks laid in Flemish bond design. It is adjacent to the site of the original wooden structure. During the Revolution, the church was said to have been a recruiting station for the colonials. After the war and disestablishment of the Church of England, The Falls Church entered a period of dwindling activity that lasted until the late 1830s. During the Civil War, the church was used as a hospital and later as a stable, suffering damage still visible at the south door and some windows. The church vestry was not formally reorganized until 1873, but has been active since then. The chancel was enlarged in 1959 and a major addition was completed in 1992. The 1760s church is still in use. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

The Federal District Boundary Markers (1791): In 1790 after much debate, Congress chose a Potomac River site for the new national capital. In 1791-92 Major Andrew Ellicott erected 40 one-foot square sandstone markers at one-mile intervals to mark the boundary of the ten-mile square district that would become the new federal city. In 1846 Congress returned the portion of the district that was west of the Potomac River to the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Two of the original markers are on the Falls Church boundary line. The Daughters of the American Revolution erected protective fences around them in 1916 and rededicated them in 1989.

Benjamin Banneker SW 9 Intermediate Boundary Stone: Located on Van Buren Street, this stone marks the boundary between Arlington County and Falls Church. This site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, and in 1980 the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation chose this site as a National Historic Landmark to commemorate the life and contributions of Benjamin Banneker, a free black who was a member of the original surveying team. He was cited as a farmer, mathematician, inventor, astronomer, writer, surveyor, scientist, and humanitarian.

The West Cornerstone: Located on Meridian Street, it is the meeting point for Arlington and Fairfax Counties and the City of Falls Church; they jointly established the surrounding park in 1956. The white blocks marking the boundary line were added during the renovation of the

park by the City of Falls Church and Boy Scout Troop 186 in 1971. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

Mount Hope (1790s ca. 1815): Located at 203 South Oak Street, the earlier portion of this farm house was reportedly built in the 1790s about 1815. The house and the farm were purchased in 1842 by Amzi Coe, who named it Mount Hope. It was the earliest known stop on the Falls Church mail route and, in the late 1840s, served as an early Presbyterian meeting place. In 1869 the house and farm were sold to Captain William Duncan from Ireland. He added the three-story Victorian-style brick structure at a cost of \$3,000 that fronted onto a lane leading to Leesburg Pike. In the 20th century the land was subdivided. In the 1950s the house had up to five apartments and a foot-salve factory in the basement. Since 1963 the house has undergone extensive improvements. The house was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Cherry Hill Farmhouse and Barn (1845): Located at 312 Park Avenue, this house was built about 1845 on property once part of the Trammell grant of 1729. The timber-frame barn was built about 1856, and other buildings included a corn crib, well house, and necessary. The farm was most productive from 1856 to 1868. According to local tradition, there was a Civil War skirmish in a Cherry Hill peach orchard, but no documentation for this has been found. The property became closely associated with the Riley family who moved to Falls Church in 1873. Owner Joseph S. Riley was instrumental in the successful 1875 effort to incorporate Falls Church as a town. Riley family members continued to live at Cherry Hill even after the property was sold to the City in 1956. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The outbuildings were renovated in 1975 and the house was restored in 1976. Now a historic site, which is open to the public, the house is furnished in period style.

Birch House (1849): Located at 312 East Broad Street, the house was built by Joseph Edward Birch, a farmer and blacksmith. The Birch family made major additions to the house in the 1870s, and lived there until 1968. In the early 1970s, when the house was empty and being vandalized, Historic Falls Church, Inc., purchased it and 2.5 acres of land. In 1976 that group sold part of the land for a town-house development and the house was later restored by the developer. The house was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

Home Hill/Lawton House (1854): Located at 203 Lawton Street, this hipped-roofed, clapboard-over-frame house was built in 1854 and named Home Hill. During the Civil War it

was used by both sides in turn as military control of the Falls Church area shifted. In 1889 General Henry Ware Lawton, later killed during the Spanish-American War, bought the house. Since 1900 the house has been renovated several times and the grounds extensively landscaped.

Dulin United Methodist Church (1868): Three Methodist churches were established in Falls Church after the Civil War, dividing the earlier Fairfax Chapel congregation. Dulin Chapel, built in 1869 on land donated by William Dulin, belonged to the Southern Methodist Church. The original chapel, located at 513 East Broad Street, now forms the front and right side of the sanctuary and vestibule of the current building. Stained glass windows, a tower, and the present entrance were added in 1982. When the Sunday school addition was built in 1926, the entire exterior of the church was stuccoed because the color of the handmade brick in the earlier part could not be duplicated. A 2003 interior renovation of the sanctuary included a modest bay addition on the east façade and restoration of the stained glass windows. The Gothic Revival style has been maintained throughout all changes. The second Methodist Church established after the Civil War was the Crossman Methodist Church, now known as Christ Crossman United Methodist Church. It was formed from the northern congregation. Finally, Galloway Methodist Church was established just outside of the City limits by former slaves of members of the Dulin Chapel congregation.

Tallwood (1870): Located at 708 East Broad Street, this brick residence was built in 1870 on a large farm. At one time a windmill and a large red bank barn were also located on the site. Yale Rice, a descendant of Elihu Yale, purchased the farm in 1890. From 1938 to 1943 Dr. and Mrs. Milton Eisenhower owned the home and for a brief period during the early days of World War II his brother General Dwight D. Eisenhower, stayed here. The Eisenhowers painted the house white and removed a front porch. Dr. Howard Berger, who bought the house in 1943, named it Tallwood.

Washington House (1879): Located at 222 North Washington Street, this wooden Gothic-style building was built in 1879 as the First Congregational Church. A steepled bell tower on the front right side was removed after the church disbanded in 1910. The bell was donated to The Falls Church in 1994. The building later served as a library, town hall, city hall, school, polling place, police station, drug store, and recreation center until 1961, when it was purchased by the Woman's Club of Falls Church and named Washington House.

Falls Church Presbyterian Church (1884): Although the Presbyterian congregation was formed in Falls Church in 1848, it was not until 1884 that a Gothic style church with

a steepled bell tower was built at the intersection of East Broad and Fairfax Street. Prior to this, the congregation met in private homes until Dr. Simon J. Groot built a hall in 1856. Groot Hall was also used as the Sunday School building, town hall, a community gathering place, a Union Army hospital and a private school. The congregation bought the hall in 1866. It was torn down in 1925. The current church became the first stone building in Falls Church; at least half of the 1884 structure stands today as part of the remodeled church with additions that are compatible in style, material, and color with the original church. An addition was constructed on this church in 2003 to increase Sunday School and fellowship space.

DePutron House (1893): Located at 508 Lincoln Avenue, Mary Elizabeth and Jacob DePutron built this large two-story gabled brick Victorian-style house on their farm about 1893. The facing bricks on the front and the woodwork on the porch show great skill in workmanship. There is a large barn with a loft in the rear. One owner of the house was Leonard Percy Daniel, mayor of Falls Church from 1930 to 1940.

Bonnie Briar (1895): Located at 502 Walden Court, the Casilears built this large two-story, gable-roofed house about 1895 on land once part of the Crossman estate and lived in it until the 1930s. A summer house, sheep house, concrete ice-house, and barn were also located on the site. The house has a fan window over the front door and each end features a porch with sun deck above. Most of the surrounding property was subdivided in the early 1960s.

St. James Catholic Church (1902): First a mission church, St. James at 905 Park Avenue, became the third Roman Catholic parish in Northern Virginia in 1892. In 1892 the parish moved from its previous location to the new building on Park Avenue. The church is an example of English Gothic architecture, with rusticated local sandstone laid in an ashlar pattern with dressed-limestone caps and turrets and setback buttresses surrounding the church. There is Gothic tracery in all of the leaded glass windows. Originally the building was rectangular and centered around a central nave with steepled bell towers on each side of the entrance. It is shaped in the form of a Roman cross after the 1952 completion of two wings that match the original in design and fabric.

Henderson House (1913): Located at 307 South Maple Avenue this Colonial Revival bungalow was built in 1914 by Edwin Bancroft Henderson. Lee Highway was built through the backyard in 1922, and in 1950 the house was moved north to permit construction of stores along the highway. Mr. Henderson (1883-1977) was the first black American in the United States to be certified as a physical training instructor. From 1926 until 1954, he served as director of physical education in D.C. public schools for

black students. In 1915 during a successful challenge to a proposed residential segregation ordinance, Dr. Henderson and his wife Mary Ellen, an elementary school principal, were instrumental in organizing the Colored Citizens Protective League which later became the Falls Church and vicinity Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Both Hendersons worked for many years for desegregation, urging blacks to earn respect by excelling in sports and sportsmanship. Mr. Henderson was the author of *The Negro in Sports* (1939) and wrote thousands of letters to newspaper editors about racial justice and civil rights. In 1955-1956 he was president of the Virginia chapter of the NAACP. Mr. Henderson won many awards, including induction into the Negro Sports Hall of Fame in 1972. In 1982 Fairfax County dedicated Providence Recreation Center in his memory.

Green Gables (1916): This early California-style bungalow, located at 313 Lincoln Avenue, was built about 1916 and named Green Gables by John and Penelope Smallwood. John Smallwood, one of the few medical doctors in Falls Church between 1902 and 1940, added a small physician's office and a trolley stop with a shed and benches for his patients. Penelope Smallwood was a noted entomologist. The physician's office has been moved to a storage site until a permanent location can be found for adaptive reuse of the building.

State Theatre (1935): Located at 220 North Washington Street, the State Theatre opened in 1935 and was considered the finest neighborhood theater in the region. It was the first theater in Virginia to open for Sunday performances and operated continuously until 1989. The theatre is undergoing renovations in 1997 and plans to reopen as a musical performing arts theater in 1998.

